

25X1
Carver, Jr.
OCI/SAVA

Approved For Release 2004/09/23 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700070049-1

SECRET

20 May 72

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SAIGON
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RYBAT

REFS: A. SAIGON 49143 (IN 615754) *

B. STATE 086026 (**) **

C. STATE 089074 (67830) ***

1. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS

JAMES G. LOWENSTEIN AND RICHARD M. MOOSE SPENT ABOUT TWO
HOURS AT HEADQUARTERS ON 19 MAY TALKING TO [REDACTED] ALSO

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PRESENT WERE [REDACTED] (JACK MAURY'S DEPUTY) AND MR.

THOMAS PICKERING, WHO IS HANDLING ALL MATTERS RELATED TO
MOOSE-LOWENSTEIN VISIT FOR STATE DEPARTMENT. AS YOU KNOW,
LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE WILL BE ARRIVING VIETNAM ON 24 MAY FOR
ROUGHLY TWO-WEEK SURVEY TRIP. HQS. SESSION ^{was} ONE OF SEVERAL
PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFINGS BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH COMPONENTS
THAT SENATOR FULBRIGHT, AS FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, HAD REQUESTED.

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2. OUR SESSION MIGHT BEST BE DESCRIBED AS CORDIAL ADVERSARY PROCEEDING. SURFACE ATMOSPHERE WAS ENTIRELY FRIENDLY, HOWEVER, AND STRESSES WERE IMPLICIT RATHER THAN OVERTLY ARGUED. LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE LED OFF BY ASKING ABOUT OVERALL NORTH VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS AND TIMETABLE. WE EXPLAINED WHY RESORT TO MAIN FORCE WARFARE INITIATED IN 1972 RATHER THAN A YEAR OR MORE LATER BY EXPLAINING THAT WHATEVER ITS U.S. CRITICS MIGHT THINK, HANOI WAS CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT PACIFICATION PROGRESS AND DID NOT WANT TO RISK LETTING THE GVN HAVE ANOTHER YEAR FOR FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF ITS ADMINISTRATIVE HOLD OVER POPULACE. ALSO, HANOI PROBABLY FELT IF VIETNAM REMAINED QUIESCENT THROUGH 1972, THIS COULD HELP RE-ELECT PRESIDENT NIXON, ~~XXX~~ WHOM HANOI WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE OUT OF OFFICE. ON DETAILED TIMING OF ATTACKS, WE EXPLAINED REASONS FOR BELIEVING HANOI HAD WANTED TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE IN MID-FEBRUARY BUT THAT COMMUNIST TIMETABLE HAD

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BEEN THROWN AWRY BY GVN PRE-EMPTIVE PROBES, ALLIED AIR STRIKES, AND GENERAL COMMUNIST INABILITY TO GET THEMSELVES SET ON SCHEDULE.

3. MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN THEN WENT INTO ARVN PERFORMANCE, COMMUNIST STRENGTHS AND DEPLOYMENT (IN NUMERICAL SENSE), COMMUNIST LOSSES, IMPACT OF THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE ON PACIFICATION, AND THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF U.S. AIR SUPPORT. THEY ASKED ABOUT HANOI'S LOGISTIC SITUATION AND PROBED HARD ON THE PROBABLE LOGISTIC IMPACT OF RECENT U.S. ACTIONS INCLUDING THE MINING OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PORTS AND INTENSIFIED AERIAL AND NAVAL GUNFIRE INTERDICTION. WE ENDEAVORED TO BE REASONABLE, TO STAY AWAY FROM DATA OR FIGURES THAT COULD BE MANIPULATED TO CAUSE TROUBLE, BUT TO BE FIRM AND FRANK IN POINTING OUT HANOI'S PROBLEMS, PERFORMANCE SHORTFALLS AND POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES. WE MADE NO CONVERTS BUT BELIEVE WE SAID NOTHING THAT COULD BE USED AS AMMUNITION AGAINST THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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AS A WHOLE OR AGAINST ANY OF OUR EXECUTIVE BRANCH COLLEAGUES.

4. RATIONALE FOR TRIP, AND OSTENSIBLE PITCH IN REQUEST FOR HQS. BRIEFING, IS COLLECTION OF DATA THAT WILL BE HELP COMMITTEE IN REVIEWING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. HENCE, MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT SVN ECONOMY, CAPITAL FLIGHT, BLACK MARKET, AID UTILIZATION, ETC. WE EXPLAINED THAT THESE MATTERS WERE LARGELY OUTSIDE [REDACTED] CHARTER, ASSURED THEM WE PROVIDED ALL POSSIBLE INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT ON SUCH MATTERS TO OUR COUNTRY TEAM COLLEAGUES WHO DID HAVE SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SUGGESTED SUCH QUESTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH COOPER.

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5. AS SESSION ENDING, MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN BROUGHT UP NARCOTICS QUESTION AND ASKED ABOUT [REDACTED] ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. WE EXPLAINED, AGAIN, THAT THIS WAS NOT MATTER FOR WHICH [REDACTED] HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY BUT STRESSED THAT WE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS SUCH AS

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BNDD WHICH DID HAVE SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES AND, FURTHER, THAT IN

COMPLIANCE WITH ² [REDACTED] WISHES, WE HAD APPRECIABLY

AUGMENTED OUR EFFORTS IN THIS AREA.

6. OVERALL, IT CLEAR THAT LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE ARE PROBING FOR SPLITS OR DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH ON WISDOM OR FEASIBILITY OF CURRENT U.S. GOVERNMENT VIETNAM POLICY. IT ALSO CLEAR THEY WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO DEVELOP DATA FROM EXECUTIVE BRANCH SOURCES WHICH COMMITTEE OR ITS SEVERAL MEMBERS COULD USE TO ATTACK AND COMBAT THAT POLICY. MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN ARE INTELLIGENT, ~~REASONABLE~~ REASONABLE AND SOCIALLY CIVILIZED. BUT THEY DO THEIR HOMEWORK, KEEP CAREFUL NOTES AND SHOULD GENERALLY BE REGARDED AS ONE WOULD REGARD INVESTIGATORS RETAINED BY THE OTHER FELLOW'S LAWYER IN AN ADVERSARY OR LITIGATION PROCEEDING.

7. [REDACTED] HAS FIRMLY EXPRESSED TWO PRINCIPLES HE WANTS ALL

[REDACTED] PERSONNAL TO FOLLOW IN ANY DEALINGS WITH LOWENSTEIN

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AND MOOSE.

A. PAST HISTORY TELLS US THAT ANY PURPORTED PRIOR AGREEMENTS ABOUT WHAT IS TO BE REGARDED AS QUOTE CLASSIFIED UNQUOTE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE HONORED OR, AT A MINIMUM, WILL BE ARGUED ABOUT WHEN THEIR EVENTUAL REPORT IS WRITTEN. THUS THEY SHOULD BE TOLD NOTHING YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO HAVE PUBLISHED IN AN UNCLASSIFIED COMMITTEE DOCUMENT TO WHICH THE PRESS AND ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WILL HAVE ACCESS.

B. ANYONE WHO TALKS TO THEM SHOULD STICK STRICTLY TO MATTERS OF WHICH HE HAS DIRECT PERSONAL COGNIZANCE AND FOR WHICH HE PERSONALLY HAS OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY. QUESTIONS DEALING WITH OTHER MATTERS SHOULD BE POLITELY BUT FIRMLY TURNED ASIDE. MOST OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S PAST DIFFICULTIES DERIVING FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE TWO GENTLEMEN HAVE ARISEN FROM SOMEONE'S SPECULATIONS OR ASSERTIONS ABOUT THE STATUS OR PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE WORK OF SOME OTHER PERSON OR

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ORGANIZATION IN ANOTHER AREA. HENCE EVERYONE WHO TALKS WITH
THESE GENTLEMEN ON THEIR CURRENT VISIT MUST CONFINE HIS
COMMENTS STRICTLY TO HIS OWN SPHERE OF FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE AND
RESPONSIBILITY. IF THEY TRAVEL ABOUT COUNTRYSIDE SUGGEST

THEIR CONTACTS BE LIMITED TO WELL BRIEFED BASE CHIEFS,
8. PLEASE REPORT BY PRIORITY CABLE ANY DEALINGS YOU OR

ANY OF YOUR STATION PERSONNEL HAVE WITH LOWENSTEIN OR MOOSE
STATINTL
ON THIS VISIT.

END OF MESSAGE

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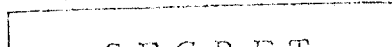
*Station requested guidance for briefing Messrs Lowenstein and Moose, staff members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
 **Apparently not received in the Cable Secretariat
 ***Advised of the travel of Lowenstein and Moose starting 24 May for two weeks.

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